Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Vadakkancheri*): If precedent and Standing Orders are a guide, I have a right to speak.

Mr. President: The motion which has been under discussion is one that is not covered by Standing Orders at all. I said this morning that I understood the wish of the House to close the discussion at 4-30.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Vadakkancheri*): The Hon'ble Minister has taken more than 1½ hours.

Mr. President: Not so much longer than the Hon'ble Mover.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Vadakkancheri:*): Should not the Mover have a right to reply? I will take only five minutes and even less.

Mr. President: If the Hon'ble Member claims a right, I must refuse; if he asks for a favour I will give him five minutes.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Vadakkancheri*): It is a precedent that the Mover has a right of reply, and I want it only as of right.

Mr. President: I have just explained to the Hon'ble Member that this motion is a peculiar one which I admitted at his special request, and it is not covered by the ordinary rules or Standing Orders. I, therefore, offer him 5 minutes.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Vadakkancheri*): I am obliged to you, Sir, for having respected a precedent and allowed me to speak.

The very fact that a man of the astuteness and cleverness of the Hon'ble Minister who just now sat down, the tone in which he replied, the arguments that he advanced for certain very useful constructive telling aspects of control measures, commandeering measures, self-sufficiency methods and similar other things which I marshalled if I were a teacher of the primary classes. 95 per cent of the points placed before him had not been touched. Therefore, I take that he accepts them, he will work upon them.

Mr. P. Govinda Menon (*Minister for Food and Education*): There is the time question.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezuthhassan (*Vadakkancheri*): Please do not take away my time. On the question of his acrobatics upon sugar, that argument stands condemned by itself. I can very well accept the Hon'ble Minister's proposition that it was the extra stock in hand, rightly or wrongly obtained, which enabled him to give the earlier ration which was subsequently reduced. I have no quarrel for that. The expression that the Government of Cochin is running black market does not mean that you are taking the money. If you have understood it like that, I can put the blame upon the Government of the day in contra-distinction to the Government of the night. The fact that 95 per cent of my constructive criticisms, useful criticisms, merciless criticisms have not been touched upon shows that you accept them.

Mr. P. Govinda Menon (*Minister for Food and Education*): I can show you that mercy.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezuthassan (*Vadakkancheri*): I will not breathe that mercy, I will rather fly and happily aeroplanes are there.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon (*Chittur-Tattamangalam*): Just now you have got that mercy.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Vadakkancheri*): For persons who do not know the A, B, C of the proceedings of the legislature, it is so.

Now I refer to the innumerable number of cases and the very small punishments meted out to them. I close with this statement that a clean cleaning of the Augean Stables is necessary. What is needed, is character, intellect, intellectual development and intellectual ability. A man without character is a greater danger to the world than stupidity. (hear, hear). I close with it.

III. FAREWELL TO DIWAN PRESIDENT

(Speeches by Official and Non-official Members)

Mr. P. Govinda Menon (*Minister for Food and Education*): Sir, it is a melancholy duty almost now fallen on my shoulders to have to bid farewell to Sir George Boag, the honourable

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President of this Council who will not be presiding over the deliberations of this House when we meet here next. That is the reason why I take this occasion to speak a few words on the floor of this House on the eve of the retirement of the President of this House. We have all been demanding that we should have an elected President for this Legislative Council. But that demand was being voiced forth especially by the Hon'ble Member from Vadakkancheri times without number upon principle. But I can certainly assert that our present Hon'ble President, while he was presiding over the deliberations of this House, never acted as the Diwan of Cochin (hear, hear) and his rulings, his regard for the wishes of the non-official section of the House in adjusting the procedure and the agenda of this House and his frequent consultations with the leader of the opposition and other Hon'ble Members of the House as to the way in which the proceedings of the House ought to be conducted, are ample proof that we were having from him a conduct which we would have expected from an elected non-official President. I do not think there has been any occasion when any member of this House felt that any of his rights as a member of this House was being curtailed, that he was not being given free right of speech and other rights which generally attach to Members of this House. In Sir George Boag, I can assert that we had an ideal President. It is such an ideal President who is now presiding over the deliberations of this House for the last time in the history of this Legislative Council. I hope that each and every Member of this House will agree—that in the departure of Sir George Boag from the Presidentship of this Council we are losing an ideal President. With these few words, I wish to resume my seat.

Mr. Parambi Lonappen (*Irinjalakkuda*): **Sir George Boag,**

This is probably the last occasion when we meet in a body as members of the Cochin Legislative Council to bid farewell to Sir George Boag. During a previous Session of the Council when we were discussing a resolution requesting the Government of H. H. The Maharaja of Cochin to give us an elected President you—as Diwan President suggested from the Chair that the Government may accept the resolution as there was no time limit fixed for grant, part of the request. In the light of that observation and knowing as I do your progressive and democratic ideas may we not legitimately expect you to be our Last Diwan President. We request you, Sir, before you relinquish the reins of Government to advise H. H. The Maharaja to grant us immediately this legitimate and reasonable aspiration and long pending request of the people of this State.

I had the privilege to work under you as the Head of a department of this State. I had the fortune as a lawyer to appear before you soon after my retirement from Government service. I had the pleasure of working along with you as your colleague in the administration of this State first as Minister for Rural Development and afterwards along with my friend Mr. K. Balakrishna Menon as Minister for Public Health and Medicine. I hope it will not be presumptuous therefore on my part if I claim greater association and, if you permit me to say so, closer intimacy with you than most of the members of the Council. I think I will be failing in my duty and gratitude to you personally if I do not give expression to my feelings of respect—admiration for your noble qualities—high attainments and my sense of appreciation of your work as Diwan and President of the Council. To work under you has been very pleasent, I am sure I am echoing correctly the feelings of every honest, hard-working officer of the Government of which you have been the executive head for the last few years. To work with you as colleague in the administration is more pleasant. I am happy to state that there was no occasion during my tenure of office as Minister of this State for more than a year for us not to arrive at agreeable conclusions on matters referred to our decision especially in those days when the Minister was not armed with so much power as it is now and when the number of Ministers was limited to one only. The period was such that officers of Government and even the Secretariat had not completely reconciled themselves to the changed and changing situations. The credit for the co-ordinated and harmonious work of the administration is certainly yours and your tactfulness and ability. You never felt or showed that the transferred half of the Government was trespassing upon forbidden areas or matters.

Whenever I had occasion to appear before you as a lawyer you showed me great courtesy and gave patient hearing. I know that was your behaviour towards all lawyers without distinction. It struck me often that you are more judicial minded and calmer than some specimen of ill-tempered judges we have all over the world. Your decisions were just and impartial. The above in short is my experience of your official work as the Diwan of our State. I may be allowed to thank you once more for your kindness and respectful treatment.

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I have so far referred only to one or two of your good qualities namely, your administrative capacity and your courteous behaviour. There are many other outstanding qualties of yours which deserve to be stated in public. Your gifted intelligence, high culture and education, exemplary honesty and character, impartial judgment, quick and sound decisions, equanimity of temper, robust common sense, charming manners, ideal behaviour, democractic ideas and ideals are far superior to those of others who are equally or more highly placed than you. These sterling qualities, your administrative and parliamentary past experiences have stood you in good stead during a period of strain, stress and strife in Cochin State also on account of the happily ended devastating world war and the aftermath of the war. These qualities of yours made your Diwanship in this State and Presidentship of the Council a good success. The struggle between various classes and interests and difference of opinion between sections of people and political organisations—the struggle for freedom, social equality and for transfer of power to the representatives of the people—slogans and demonstrations of even provocative nature which are likely to distrub the equanimity of the so-called statesmen-administrators have been treated by you calmly and interpreted as external manifestations of democractic and progressive ideas and aspirations. You did not stifle them. You tolerated them if they were non-violent. When there was necessity to check their nefarious activities or tendencies you had been alive and rose up to the situation to avert danger and to prevent the uprooting of existing beneficial, social, economical and political well-being of the State. To put it briefly, Sir, you have been wonderfully piloting the ship of State of Cochin in stormy waters with great calmness and sagacity. So much so we have almost reached our goal namely full Responsible Government in Cochin for the people by the representatives of the people. All credit to you. The attempt of some people for social and economic equality has also received great encouragement at your hands. I personally and in the name of the Nationalist Party congratulate you for you achievements and attempts.

Sir, Your Presidentship in the Council was marked with super ability. It is no easy job to be the Diwan President of a Council like the Cochin Legislative Council whose members are ever jealous, zealous and watchful over the interests of the people and privileges of the Council and its members. The members of our Council in general are in no way inferior in intelligence and debating capacity to the members of any other Council in India. I am expressing the opinion of an Ex-Diwan President of Cochin Sir Shanmugam Chetty. In such an assembly consisting of ever vigilant members unlike Elected Presidents of Councils or Parliaments the Diwan President has got the difficult task of keeping the balance even between the prestige of the Government and Government servants, the aggressive attack on Government and its members on the one hand and the rights, privileges of the people of the Stae and the diginity of the Honourable Members who represent them in the Council on the other. Criticisms of the policy and actions of Government and its servants may sometimes be so irksome to lose the patience of even a holy man like Job. I am not the competent person to say whether our criticisms were unplesant or irksome. But one fact I can assert. We never noticed you losing temper though some of us often succumb to it. We used to be admonished by you now and then from the Chair when we go on the wrong path or indulge in exaggeration. Your admonitions have been more effective than those other powers in the hands of the President. You have been managing all the situations in the Council in such wonderful and tactful manner so much so some of us sometimes had to curb our excessive zeal and exaggerated speech to cold reasoning and relevant speaking. Rulings pressed from you which sometimes seemed even to us nuisance have been impartial and generally correct. "Order. Order" which used to be heard now and then from the Presidential Chair has often toned down heated, firy discussions and wrangle of words. Sir, the proceedings of this Council went on during your Presidentship without any hitch howl or struggle. In short you have been a model President surpassing many of the former Presidents of the Cochin Legislative Council or of other Councils in other parts of the world big or small. We are exiremely sorry, Sir, that we are losing such a Diwan-President during this period of the transition of full power into the hands of the representatives of the people. I know from my personal contact and association with you that you are not desirous for power, position or wealth. You deserve rest, though we may wish you to continue in Cochin as our Diwan during this interim period of transition of political power. I on my behalf and on behalf of the Nationalist party publically express our appreciation of your good work as Diwan of this State and President of the Council. We wish you long life continued health and happiness.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Vadakkancheri*): Sir, I am very much pained to be in the position in which I find myself. As the Honourable Minister Mr. Govinda Menon said, it is

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a very painful occasion at which we are today. Occasions of parting are painful and when it is a parting from a President who has been an ideal President within the limitations of the high office that he holds, it cannot be anything other than what it has been to us because he hails from the Mother of Parliaments. Sir, you have kept up the tradition of that glorious House known as the Mother of Parliaments. No ruling of yours, Sir, has either unnecessarily curbed or wounded or belittled the enthusiam of any Hon'ble Member. Having been a fortuate recipient of many such Orders myself (laughter), the pleasure with which I was recieving them the benefit that I had under them, the advantage that I will hereafter have, if I am fortunate enough to be in this Council longer, I will certainly be benefitted. And to have a President of that type for a pretty long period of three years and to lose him all on a sudden, when according to me we are conceiving of days when the office of the Diwan is not to be had here, to part with such a good President, such an ideal President who has been useful to give lessons in conducting themselves as members of the House, to lose him is really painful. Sir, we have a consolation that you are leaving the State, just to perform one of the most dutiful duties of a son. You are, returning Sir, to be in the company of your revered mother. Our pain at this juncture is almost offset by the pleasures that you will be having in meeting your mother, who, I believe, has been responsible for what all things great inclusive of the Governorship of a Province.She must have been responsible for that. To be with her is the greatest duty that a son has to perform. Since you are leaving us, although we feel painful at the departure, we have this consolation.

Mr. L. M. Pylee *(Latin-Christians-Ernakulam)*: Sir; I am only echoing what has been expressed by the previous speakers. There are certain qualities which are outstanding in you, Sir, and which have impressed all those who have had the privilege to come in contact with you. Your high qualities of statesmanship and your suavity and gentlemanliness have, I am perfectly sure, endeared you to us all, and added to that, in my contact with you during the period during which you were guiding the destinies of the State, it is that sweet reasonableness that I have noticed in you as the most prominent trait of your character. Sir, as the President of this House, your actions have been always exemplary. Unlike perhaps those who are accustomed to the bureaucratic system of administration elsewhere. always you took a liberal view of the rules, a liberal view of all that is concerned, in matters relating to this Hon'able House and certainly, Sir, in the annals both of this House and of the State, your name will go down as that of a very liberal statesman. Sir, no one can forget that liberality with which you treated the Hon'able Members of this House and on one can forget that willing readiness which you always showed to accommodate yourself and even to go out of the way of the rules, in order to accommodate yourself to the convenience of the members, when such accommodation was found necessary. The strictness of the rules, you were pleased to relax on such occasions and even today we have but an instance of that. Whenever any reasonable demand was put forward before you, you never hesitated to withdraw or rather not to care for the technicalities. but to concede the request if it was found to be one that was conducive to the public good, Sir, you have been the Diwan of Cochin during a period in which epoch-making changes have taken place. In no time in the history of our State has there been such an important period. The Hon'able Members and the public are aware of the great constitutional changes that have taken place in the past few months and certainly, Sir, we are conscious and we will always remember that your presence, your desire, and willingness to move forward and your liberal views of statesmanship have been in good stead in these times of great change and advance. Sir, time is up nearing 5 and I do not wish to prolong my speech. I echo the sentimenrts that are surging in the hearts of all the Hon'able Members of this House that you will have still many more years of life and still many more years of joy and prosperity especially in company with your mother. Sir, we people of India, have a great regard and attachment for our mother and since you are going to your motherland to meet your mother there, may God bless you.

Mrs. T. Francis *(Ernakulam-Women)*: Sir, on behalf of the ladies of Cochin I wish to say a few words on your departure, this being the last day that you will be presiding over the deliberations of this House.

Sir, the ladies of Cochin must thank you very much for your kindness. You have always stood for their progress and you have given them all guidance and help, I have had occasion to meet you and consult you on their benalf when you have given me every kind of encouragement and help.

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May God bless you in your journey to England and in your life with your mother !

Mr. President : I think no other Hon'able Member wishes to speak. The time is up, I shall, therefore, ask the permission of the Hon'able Members to detain them for a very brief moment. I first of all express my thanks for the kind things Hon'able Members who have spoken, have said about me and for their good wishes for my future.

I consider my work in connction with this Legislative Council to have been one, of the most interesting portions of my work in this State. I have certainly been very much interested in the work which devolved upon me as President of this Coumcil, and perhaps that is the reason why I have been able, as the speakers have said, to give a certain measure of satisfaction.

Now there is one thing which I have always tried to remember. It has not always been easy, but I have always tried to remember that the Legislature is one limb of the Government. There ought to be no antagonism between the Government and the Legislature, because the Legislature is itself part of the Government. It is the body responsible for the discharge of the Government's legislative functions; and I recognise fully that this Legislative Council has been fully alive to its responsibilities in this respect and that again is probably another reason why I have been able to find so much interest in my work here.

I would like to say a word of thanks for the manner in which Hon'ble Members have always supported my action in the Chair. Without that support no President could possibly make a success of his office, nor could he give satisfaction to Hon'ble Members. When Hon'ble Members themselves have been very willing to support what I have done, clearly there has been no room for differences of opinion.

I think it was on the first occasion when I addressed this House that I said that if during my time in this State I should have the privilege to see any further measure of constitutional advance, I should feel highly satisfied. I did not at that time expect to see such a large measure of constitutional advance as has happened during the short time that I have been here. But I may say that it is a matter of great satisfaction to me that my career of office as President of this Council and as Diwan of this State has coincided with such a substantial measure of constitutional advance. I hope it will not be long before further steps are taken on the road to full responsible Government. But in answer to one point made by the leader of the opposition I may state that now that we have here in this State a Committee at work studying the implications of further constitutional advance, and the measures legislative and otherwise which are necessary as an immediate prelude to any further advance, while these matters are all being studied, it would be a mistake to isolate one part of that advance and put forward measures for the immediate fulfilment of that one demand. All these things will come, and I think within a very short time. *(Hear, hear).*

I do not think any Hon'ble Member would grudge that short delay and I do think that they should wait to welcome the new constitution.

Hon'ble Members, in wishing you good-bye I wish this House well. I imagine that after the next General Elections it would be a very different House from this. But a legislature, though its composition, and the personalities which make it up may change, the legislature itself goes on as a continuous existence. Therefore, I hope that this House, this Legislature, will continue to look after the interests of the people of this State, to legislate for their benefit and to voice their grievances as it has been doing in the past.

I bid you all good-bye, Hon'ble Members, once again thanking you for the manner in which you have treated me and for the support you have always given me.

The House rose for the day at 5-10 p.m.

N. S. RADHAKRISHNA SARMA

Secretary to the Council

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